

Beyond



VISION

Image Credit: New York State Reading Association

A New Lens for Service-Learning During the Pandemic

Kelly Ormsby, Associate Professor, English
Chair, Tennessee Service-Learning Consortium Board
Dr. Agapi Theodorou-Shapiro, Assistant Professor, English
Michelle Vandiver, Associate Professor, Spanish
Volunteer State Community College

Opening the conversation





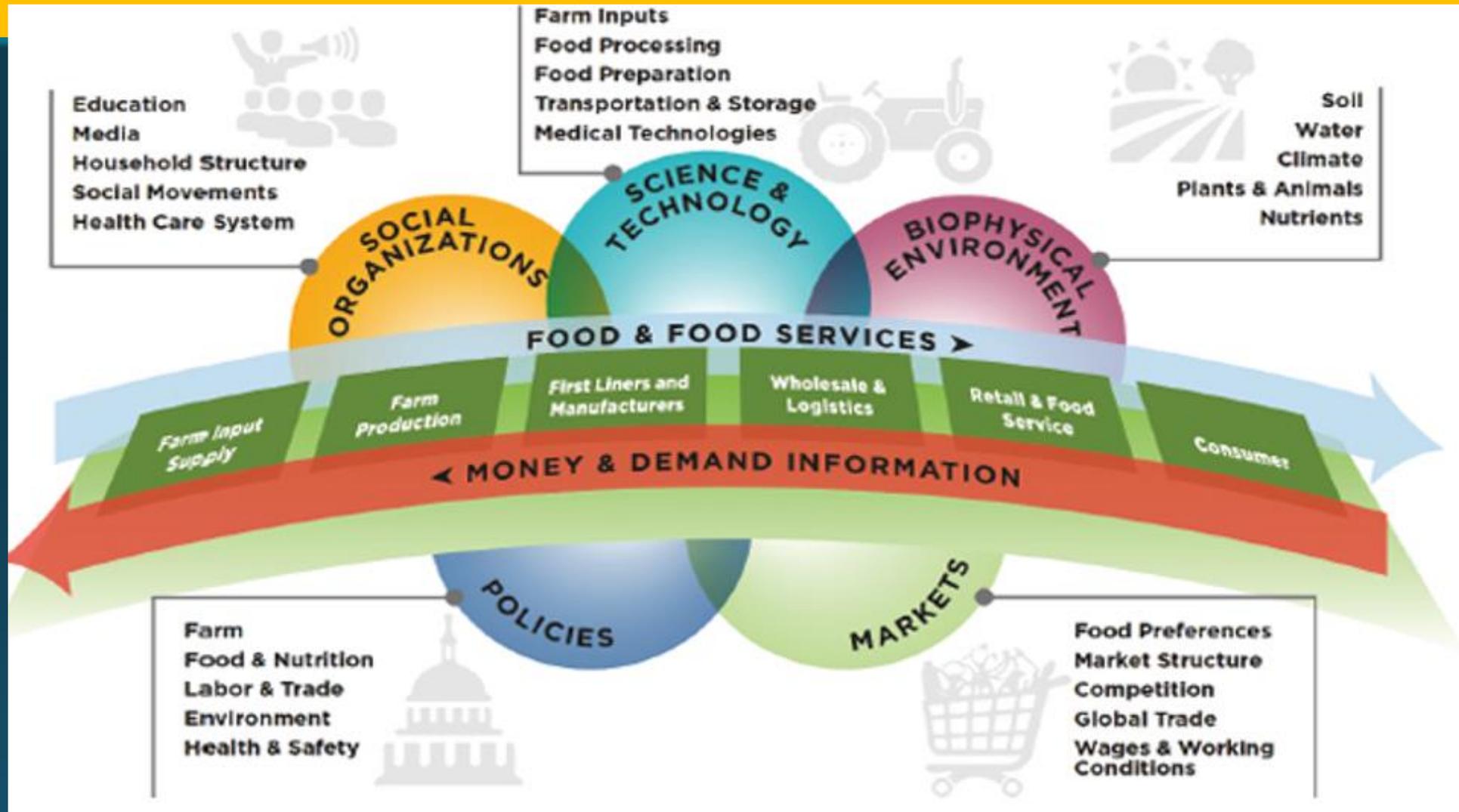
Project Origins

Project 1: World Food Day at VSCC



- World Food Day celebrates the 1945 founding of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- Vol State's event, held as part of the college's Fall Festival, features class projects, panel/film presentations, and a food fair to share research and service projects with the campus; highlight healthy, sustainable, and diverse foodways; and connect participants to local and global resources.

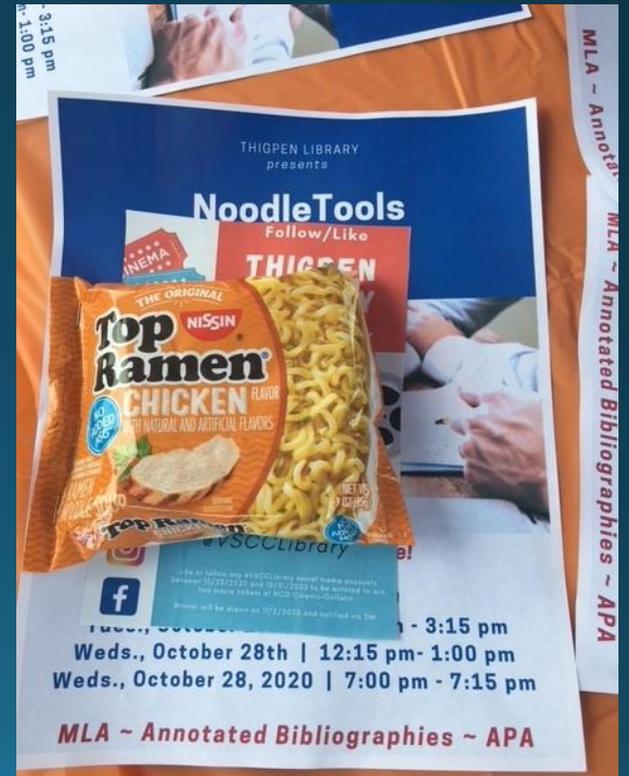
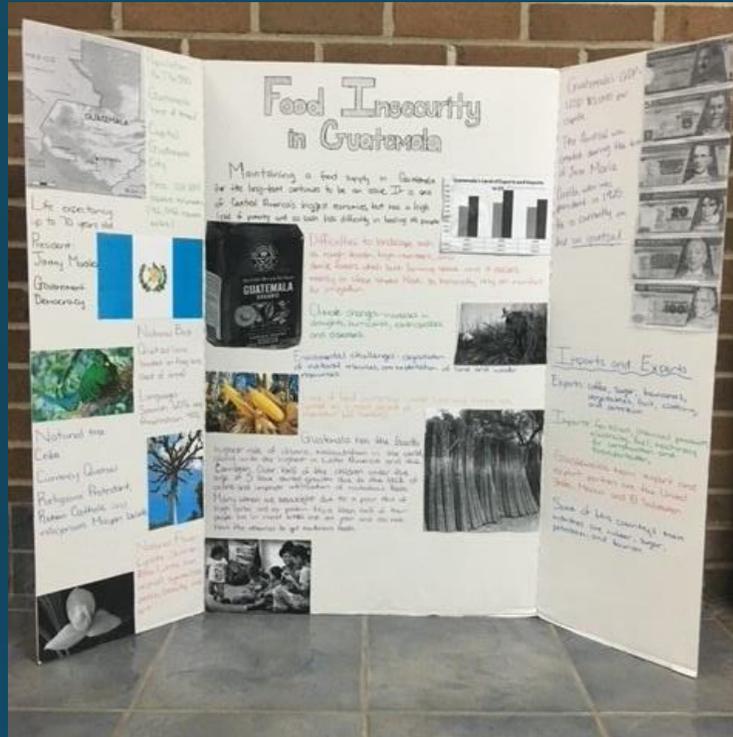
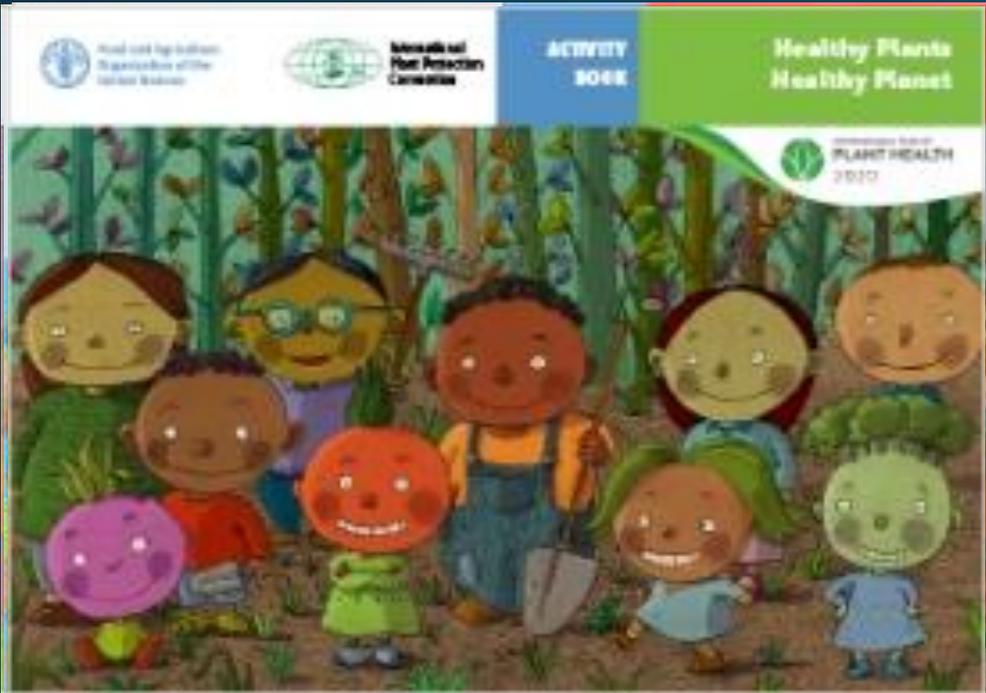
Common Intellectual Experience: Food Across the Curriculum



Local Farmers plus Community Partners



2014-2020



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

Widespread Hunger

More than 3 billion people (almost 40% of the World's population) cannot afford a healthy diet per the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

In 2020, more than 60 million people in America (18% of the U.S. population) turned to food banks and community programs for help putting food on the table according to Feeding America.

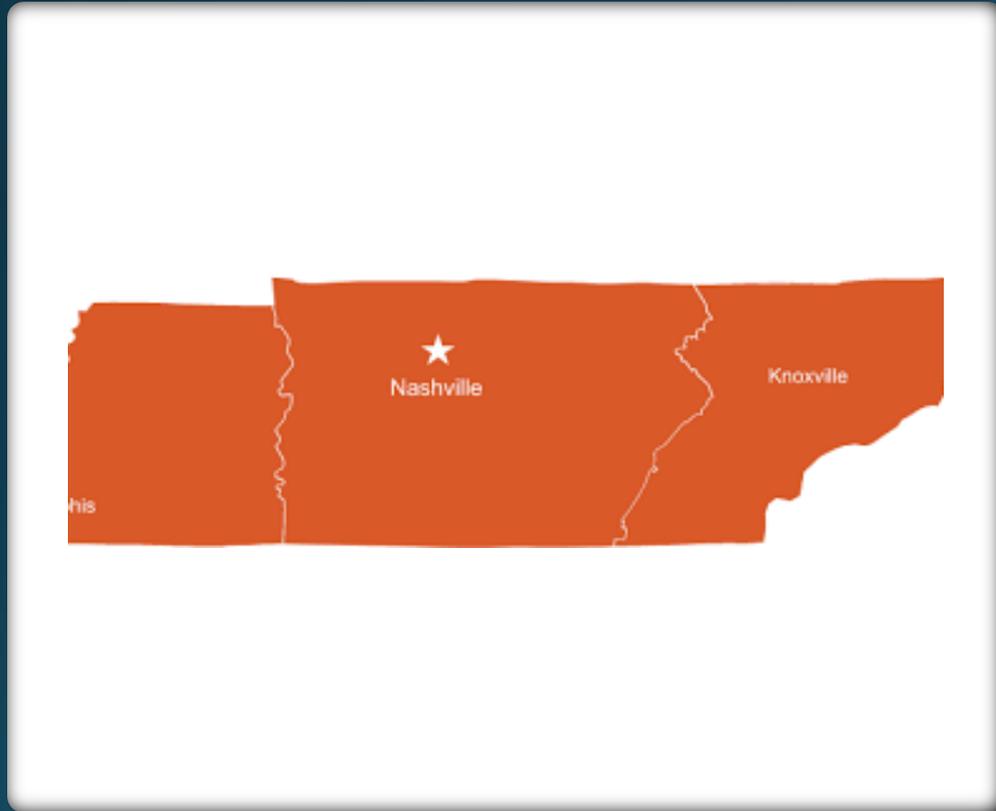


American Journal of Public Health Study
Conducted June 23 – July 1,
2020

- 43% of low-income adults with incomes less than 250% of the federal poverty level continued to experience food insecurity.
- Among households in which one member lost a job or income, 59% were food insecure.
- Among households in which more than one person lost a job or income, 72% were food insecure.



Tennessee Health Child poll by Vanderbilt Center for Child Health in December 2020



The number of uninsured children in Tennessee has more than doubled since 2019, and 2 in 5 children live with food insecurity.

How did we respond in the United States?

- Emergency food systems (Ex. food banks, school meals, SNAP)
- Stimulus payments (\$1200 per adult and \$500 per child)
- Unemployment benefits (extra \$600 per week)

VSCC Project Changes During the Pandemic

- Drive through and virtual celebration for World Food Day 2020
 - Remote service opportunities (independent)
 - Zoom lecture
- Hybrid celebration for 2021
 - International Speaker (WebX)
 - Multiple service options (in person and virtual)
 - Google Site to manage and promote project details
 - Gather Town for virtual showcase and community partner interaction
 - New LibGuide for Food Research



2021



Jinal Shah

Senior Nutritionist
with Rujuta Diwekar

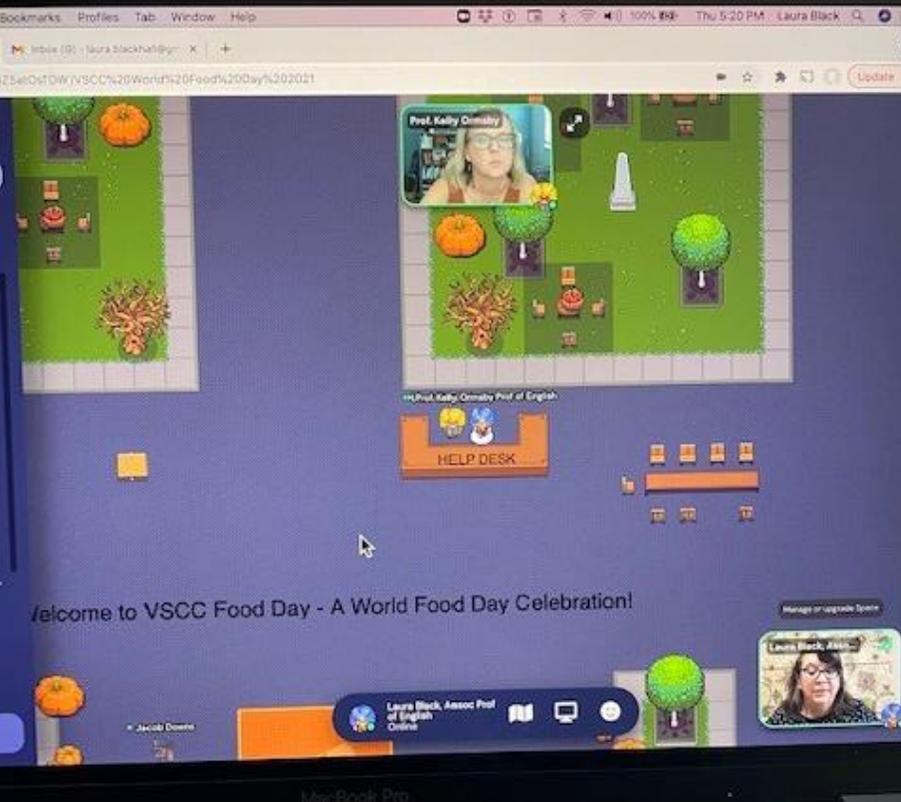
TedX Speaker





New for 2021:

- Virtual meeting space in Gather
- Opportunity to participate and interact in real time from multiple campus and home locations
- See student and community presentations and talk with presenters
- Meet SGA and club representatives, other students, and faculty



Student Voices: The Gather Town Experience

Everyone loves food, and Food Day was honestly such a cute and interactive way to bring people together over something they love, all the while introducing them to new cultures and ideas. Not to mention, Gather Town was the perfect media to use for it. The platform was easy to navigate and very well put together. I loved the realness of it, for it felt like I was attending and viewing the presentations displayed in person. The guest speakers were also very helpful, as were the directions and notes spread across Gather Town.

From watching, reading, and participating in the presentations to exploring the world of Gather Town, the whole event was so much fun to be a part of. It was a unique experience I never would have thought could be possible and won't be forgetting any time soon. I mean, who else can say they attended their college presentations on an 80's style video game-like platform!? All in all, I would say Food Day at Vol State was a major success for everyone involved, and I hope to participate again next year!

Project 2: Read Across America



NEA: "Motivate kids to read, bring the joys of reading to students of all ages, and make all children feel valued and welcome"

Increase Student Engagement and Inclusion

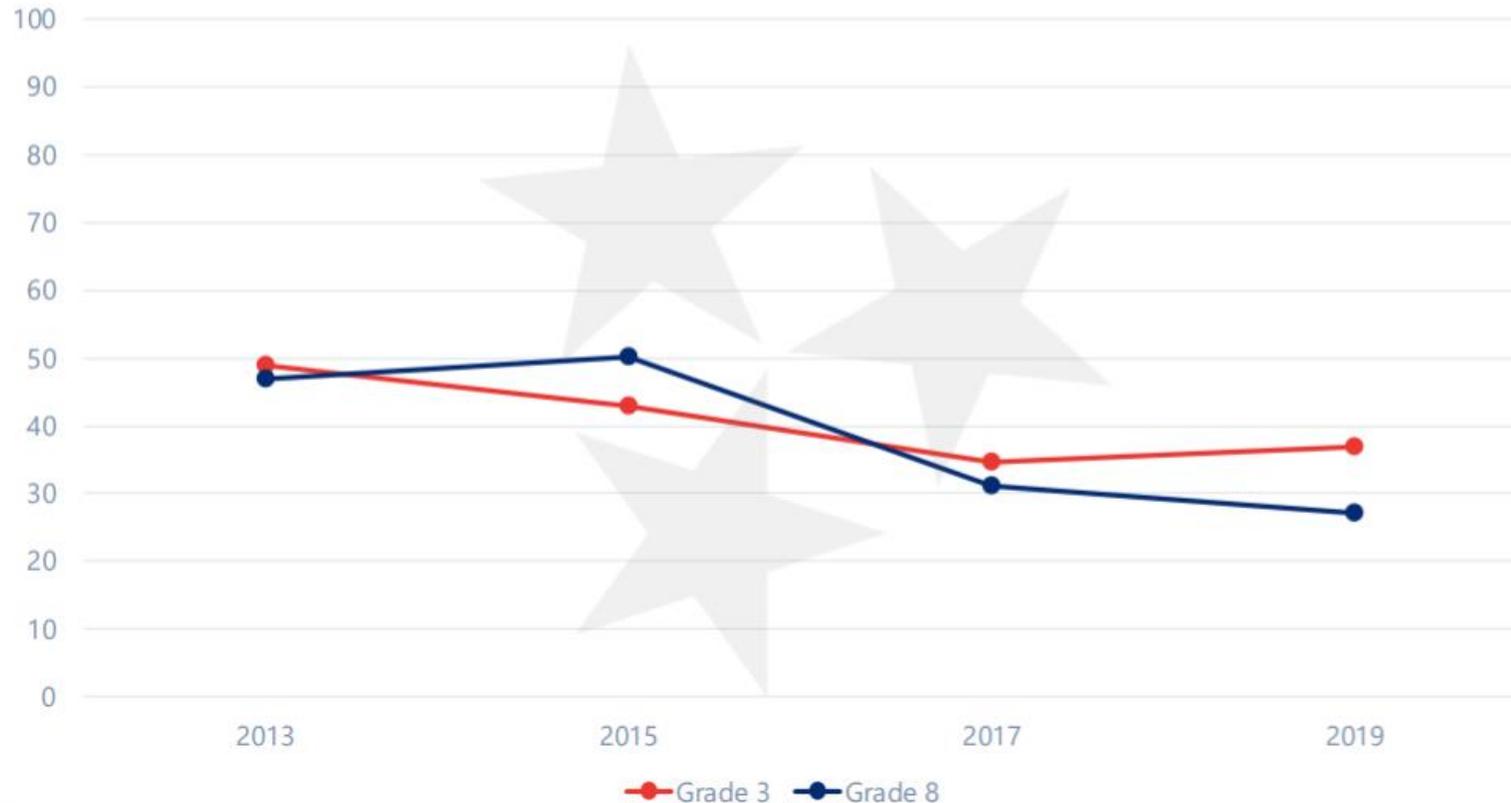
Build Skills (CLOs and Career Readiness)



Literacy in Tennessee

"If a parent cannot read well, it is likely that their child will struggle as well." DeMarrus Miller, Salvation Army (qtd. in *Reflections from the Reading 360 Summit* by Dr. Lisa Coons, October 18, 2021. Tennessee Department of Education.)

% Students At or Above Proficiency Grades 3 & 8 English Language Arts (ELA) (TCAP)



KEY TAKEAWAY

Not hitting the...



3rd
grade

**LITERACY
PROFICIENCY
MILESTONE**

— makes it —

**HARDER TO
CATCH UP &
SUCCEED**

Why Reading Proficiency by Grade 3 Matters

Key indicator of future academic success as well as lifelong socioeconomic and health outcomes

Children reading at grade level are... 

**MORE
LIKELY
TO:**

- Graduate from high school
- Enter & complete post-secondary programs
- Remain gainfully employed later in life



**SIGNIFICANTLY
MORE LIKELY TO:** Stay on grade level
over time

HIGHLY CORRELATED with high school completion and lifelong socioeconomic and health and wellness outcomes.



Children not reading at grade level are...

**4X MORE LIKELY TO DROP
OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL**

Negatively impacting short & long-term earning potential

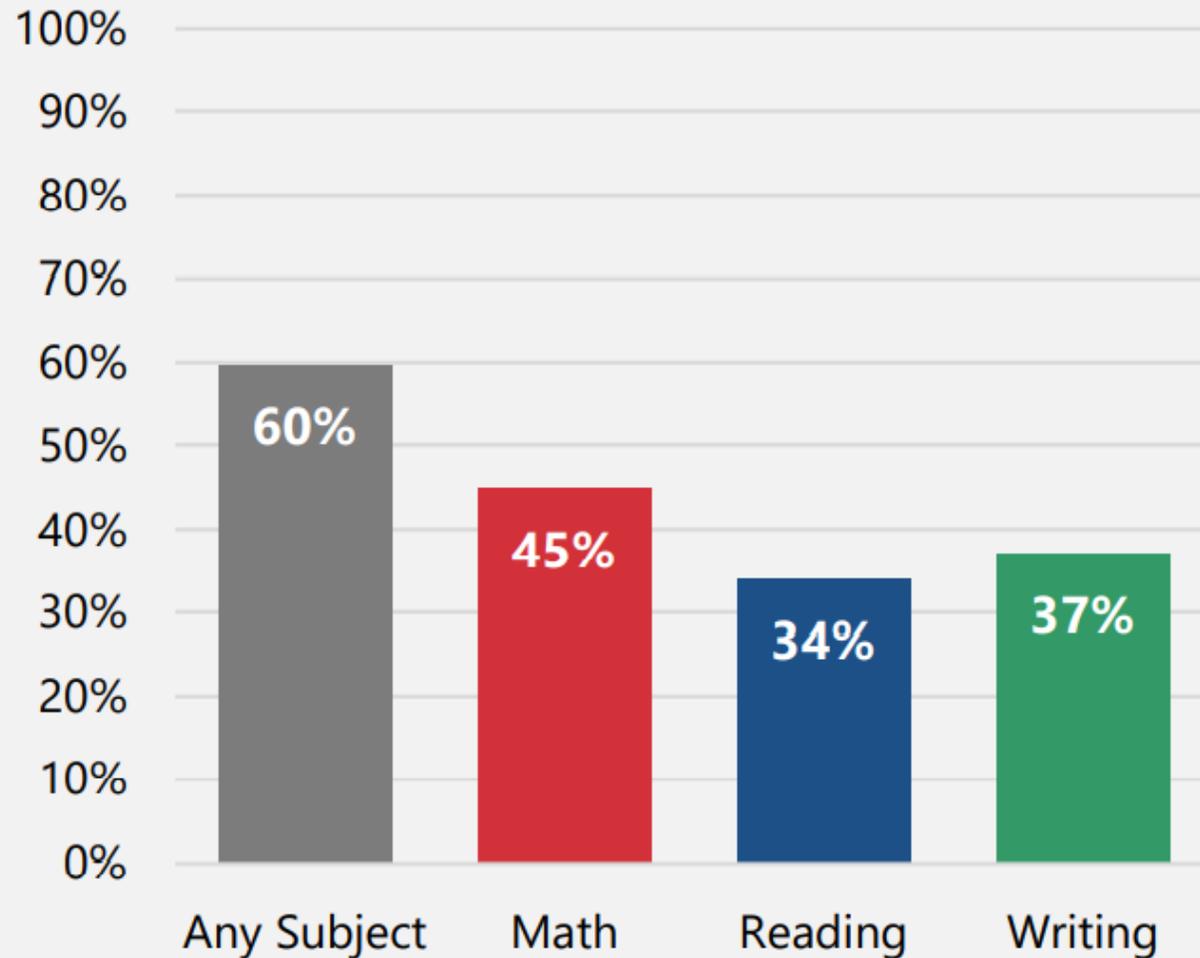
ASSOCIATED with higher rates of poverty, not keeping up with medical treatment, pre-teen alcohol use, depression, and teenage pregnancy.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Low literacy rates negatively impacts our students and our state.



Figure 14: Percent of First-Time Freshmen Placed into Learning Support, 2015-2019



*Gaining Momentum:
Refining Corequisite
Learning Support to Boost
Student Success in the
First Year and Beyond*

Tennessee Board of
Regents,
November 2021

DIVERSITY IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2018

Percentage of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds based on the 2018 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison:
ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp



Illustration by David Huyck, in consultation with Sarah Park Dahlen
Released under a Creative Commons BY-SA license: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>

The CCBC inventory includes 3,134 books published in 2018. This graphic would not have been possible without the statistics compiled by the CCBC, and the review and feedback we received from Edith Campbell, Molly Beth Griffin, K. T. Herring, Debbie Reese, Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, and Madeline Tynes. Many thanks.

Data on books by and about Black, Indigenous and People of Color published for children and teens compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
<https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/literature-resources/ccbc-diversity-statistics/books-by-and-or-about-poc-2018/>

Equity and Inclusion

[High Impact Practices] are effective for racial and ethnic minorities in particular, who disproportionately experience high and persistent levels of post-secondary attrition...HIPS that have an effect on engagement across racial categories are **service-learning**, undergraduate research, **group assignments**, learning communities, sequence courses, and, especially, having a close faculty mentor. In addition to these factors, **diversity-related course content** is especially effective for racial/ethnic minority engagement.

(Sweat, Jeffery, et. al. "How Does High Impact Practice Predict Student Engagement? A Comparison of White and Minority Students," *International Journal Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*, vol. 7, no. 2, 2013.)



**Critical Thinking/
Problem Solving**



**Oral/Written
Communications**



Leadership



**Digital
Technology**



**Teamwork/
Collaboration**



**Professionalism/
Work Ethic**



**Career
Management**



**Global/
Intercultural Fluency**

Connecting to Career

<https://www.nacweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/>

Read Across America Timeline (pre- COVID)

•2018

•300 Book Donation, Future Educators Club (student group), 15 Volunteers/Students, 2 Community Partners (Head Starts), 5 Faculty, Cross Discipline (Education, English, Reading, and Speech)

•2019

•500 Book Donation, Future Educators Club (student group) and Sigma Kappa Delta (English Honor Society), 35 VSCC Students, 2 Community Partners (Head Starts), 4 Faculty, Cross Discipline (Education and English); Library special collection purchase for Read Across America (filled gaps in Corretta Scott King Book Awards collection)

•2020

•200 Book Donation, 35 VSCC Students, 3 Community Partners (Head Starts/Government Childcare), 3 Faculty, Cross Discipline (Education and English); Library purchased over 100 + Belpre Award, Schnieder Family Book Award, and Corretta Scott King Book Award winners to add to the children's literature collection



Pre-pandemic



Orbit of Challenges to Our Emotional Well Being

Dr. Mays Imad, " 'Ours Is Not a Caravan of Despair': Trauma-Informed Education in Turbulent Times"
HIP Statewide Conference, 2021

2021



Research Guides

Read Across America: Virtual Storytime

Read Across America at Trigg Library scheduled from 10-12-2021

Virtual Storytime

Read across America STORY TIME

Richard Author

We are excited to present our featured author and volunteer Gene Community College English professor, T.G. Moore reading her newly published book, *Carson's Zoo Adventure: A Lesson in Love*.

Stop by Trigg Library and borrow Carson's Zoo Adventure: A Lesson in Love to take home and share during your family's bedtime.

Read Out Loud

Read Out Loud offers a variety of great Read Out Loud storytimes, read by the authors and librarians themselves!

Read by Trigg Library

Author, T.G. Moore was inspired by her son Carson to write her first children's book. As she was preparing for the birth of her son, she began purchasing books for his personal library. It was then she was inspired to see her son. Unfortunately, it didn't take long for Moore to discover there were very few books where boys of color were featured as the main character.

Lately for all of us, this experience propelled Moore to write Carson's Zoo Adventure: A Lesson in Love, with plans to create an entire series where a different boy of color would be represented as the main character. (It's not a read for the next in the series. You can be assured Trigg Library will have a copy, but all the press.)

Although we are excited to have T.G. Moore join the ranks of authors featured at Trigg Library, this highlights the need for more diverse books, as well as diverse authors. Please contact us to provide an accurate representation for all cultures and needs to encourage people to embrace the diversity that literature can bring. Thank you, Trigg Library! The world will be a better place for it.

Read by White College (Diversified Books)

Some may not be aware, but the 1st State (Delaware) campus is home to many Sussex County Community College students. Trigg Library is happy to see from on a daily basis. Although it may not be the way things are going (1st State is closed), these amazing students come to campus each day.

Community College students have been a HUGE part of our Read Across America programs. They've been reading books on campus and are sharing some of these donated books for our virtual storytimes. We hope you enjoy!

Read Across America: Poodle Patrol's Tale Adventure

Let's get ready to... Read Across America



Learn More: <https://libguides.volstate.edu/RAA>
Read Across America 2022: First week of March

2022

- **Growing the LibGuide:** Research, tips, and tools
- **Book drive:** 2/14-3/4 on the main campus
- **Virtual Storytime:** Students work with instructors to record reading videos to be shared with our service partners
- **Read Across America Read-In:** Virtual story time for VSCC families in Zoom

Additional Community Groups TBA (student connections)

Scaling

- Teaching and Learning Center HIPs Mapping Project
- First Year Experience (FYEX 1030)

Embedded Service-Learning Pilot

- Gateway courses (ex. ENGL 1010 and Learning Support)

Embedded HIPs

Ideas?



Please contact us!

Kelly Ormsby, Associate Professor, English,
Kelly.ormsby@volstate.edu

Dr. Agapi Theodorou-Shapiro, Assistant Professor, English,
Agapi.Theodorou-Shapiro@volstate.edu

Michelle Vandiver, Associate Professor, Spanish,
Michelle.Vandiver@volstate.edu

Tennessee Service-Learning Consortium:

<https://www.tbr.edu/student-success/tennessee-service-learning-consortium>